

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12-16, 19, 22, 23 and 30-48 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 30 and 43 are the independent claims. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9-11, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24-27 and 29 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter has been introduced by these changes, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing amendment and these remarks, Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-18 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's determination and submit the above claim amendment accordingly. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 11. As a result, claim 11 has effectively been rewritten in independent form. In view of amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 24-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 24-28 have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 20-23 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,874,773 to Newbould (“Newbould”). The Examiner asserts that Newbould discloses a multi-axis chuck having a first portion, a second portion and a third portion which are rotatably connected. Applicants have amended claim 1, thereby effectively rewriting claim 11 in independent form. As described above, the Examiner indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, such an amendment renders the rejection of claim 1 and all claims depending from it moot. Claims 20, 21 and 29 are cancelled by the foregoing amendment rendering this rejection moot with respect to those claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 2-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newbould in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,427,993 to Prochac (“Prochac”). In particular, the Examiner acknowledges that Newbould does not disclose scales indicating degrees of rotation and relies upon Prochac for a holding device that includes indicating markings that may be used to help align a workpiece.

As described above, amended claim 1 is patentable. Claims 2, 4, 6 and 8 depend from and include all of the features of claim 1, and therefore are patentable for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1. Claims 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10 are cancelled by the foregoing

amendment to reduce the number of claims, rendering this rejection moot with regard to those claims, although they would have been allowable if left in the application.

Claims 24-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,273,879 ("Floren") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,492,356 ("Taniguchi"). Claims 24-28 have been cancelled, rendering this rejection moot.

New Claims 30-48

Claims 30-48 are added by the foregoing amendment with claims 30 and 43 being independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the apparatus recited in claims 30 and 43 are neither disclosed nor suggested by cited prior art and therefore are in condition for allowance. Claims 31-42 depend from claim 30 and include all of the limitations of claim 30 and are therefore also patentable. Claims 44-48 depend from and include all of the features of claim 43 and are therefore also patentable. Support for new claims 30-48 may be found throughout the specification and drawings as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

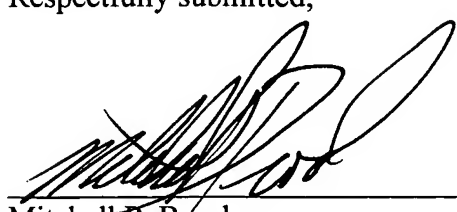
It is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss remaining issues, if there are any. The Commissioner hereby is authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or

credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

3/3/05



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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figures 1 and 2. In Figure 1, line segments were added to properly show a complete interface between second portion (14) and third portion (16), reference number “24” was removed because it was not discussed in the specification and reference number “20” was relocated to properly show the cutting region (20). In Figure 2, a line segment was removed to properly show the interface between first portion (12) and second portion (14), line segments were added to correct the interface between second portion (14) and third portion (16), reference number “24” was removed and reference number “20” was relocated. In addition, an error in the depiction of the support structure for the multi-axis chuck was corrected to make it consistent with that structure as depicted in Figure 1. All of the aforementioned corrections are noted in the attached Annotated Sheets.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

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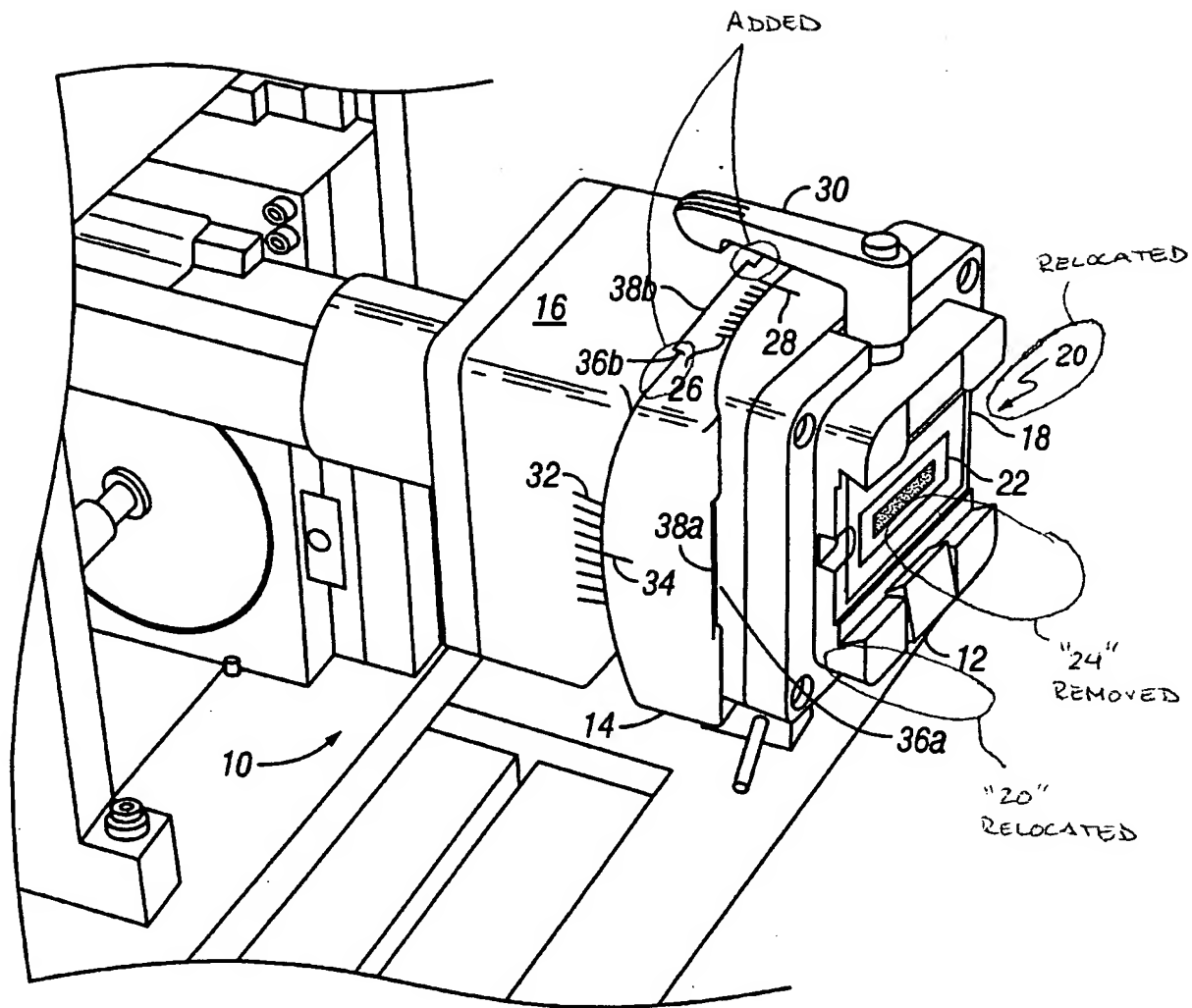


FIG. 1

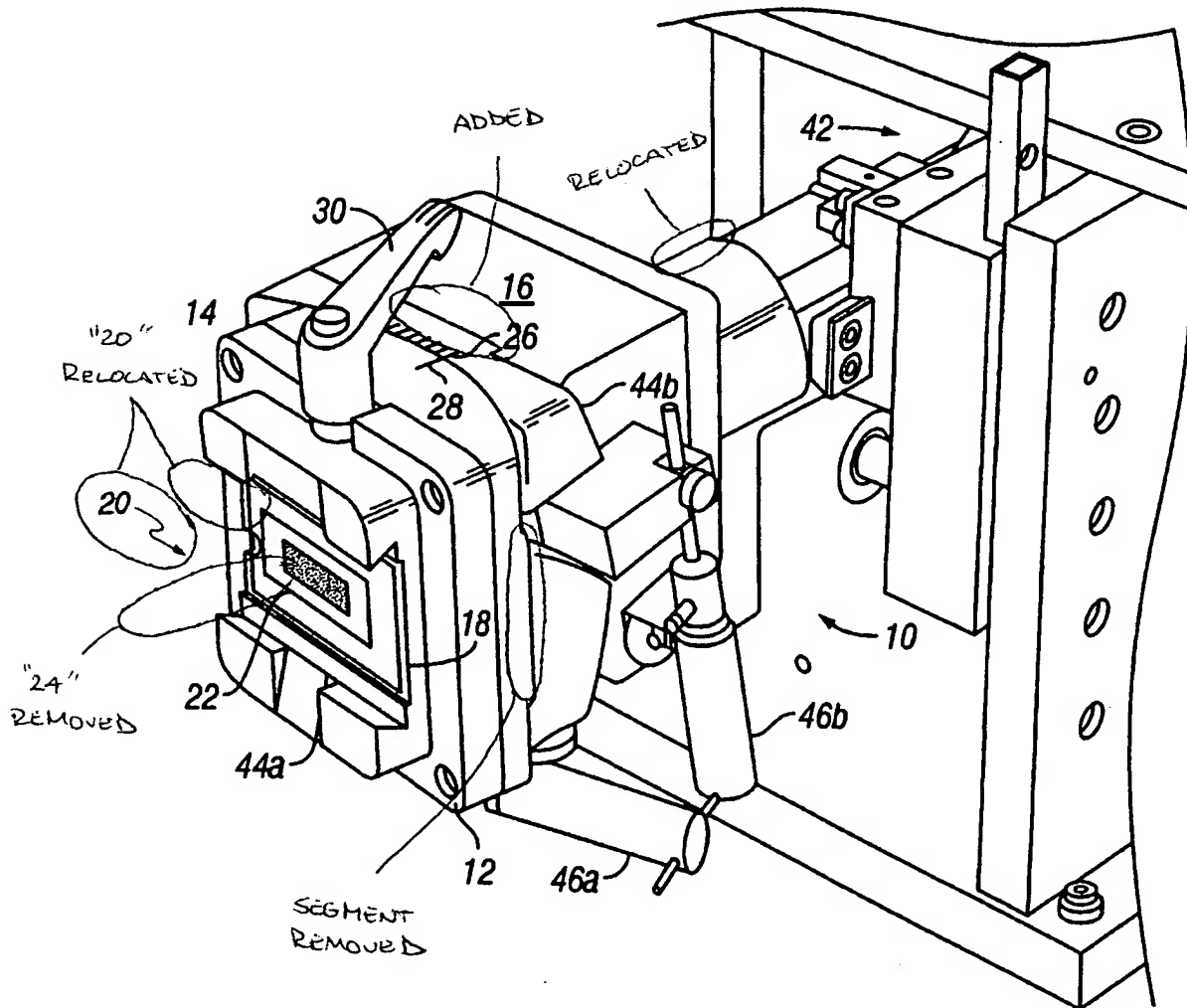


FIG. 2